

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing of claims which will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process for recovering ~~copper~~ at least one metal value from a ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing material, comprising the steps of:

a) pressure leaching a ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing material with a liquid to yield a residue and a ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution;

b) diluting said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution with a diluting solution to form a diluted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution, wherein a ratio of said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution to said diluting solution is less than about 1:10 and the pH of said diluted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution is less than about 2.2; and

c) solvent extracting ~~said copper~~ at least one metal value from said diluted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 1, wherein in said diluting step, the ratio by volume of said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution to said diluting solution ranges from about 1:4 to about 1:8.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 2, further comprising providing an extraction reagent for use in said step of solvent extracting ~~said copper~~ at least one metal value from said diluted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution.

4. The process of claim 3, wherein said step of providing an extraction reagent comprises providing an aldoxime/ketoxime mixture.

5. The process of claim 3, wherein said step of providing an extraction reagent comprises providing an extraction reagent comprising aldoximes, modified aldoximes, or aldoxime/ketoxime mixtures.

6. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 2, wherein said pressure leaching step comprises high temperature pressure leaching at a temperature from about 210°C to about 235°C.

7. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 6, wherein said pressure leaching step is at superatmospheric pressure at a temperature of about 225°C in an oxygen-containing atmosphere.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 2, further comprising the step of comminuting said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing material prior to the step of pressure leaching.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 8, wherein said comminuting step comprises comminuting said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing material to a P80 of less than about 75 microns.

10. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 2, further comprising the step of recovering any precious metals contained in said pressure leaching residue.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 2, further comprising the step of electrowinning said ~~copper~~ at least one metal value from said solvent extraction step ~~to form cathode copper~~.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 1, wherein in said solvent extracting step, said diluted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution is contacted with an extraction reagent comprising an aldoxime/ketoxime mixture.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A ~~copper~~ metal recovery process comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing material;
- b) comminuting said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing material to provide a comminuted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing material in a slurry form;
- c) subjecting said slurry to flotation to separate ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing materials and to form a concentrated ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing material;
- d) pressure leaching said concentrated ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing material at a temperature in the range of about 210°C to about 235°C in an oxygen-containing atmosphere in a sealed, agitated multiple-compartment pressure leaching vessel to form a product slurry;
- e) separating said product slurry into a ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution and a solids-containing residue;
- f) adjusting the pH of said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution to a pH of less than about 2.2 by combining said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution with a make-up diluting solution to yield a pH-adjusted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing

solution, wherein the ratio of said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution to said make-up diluting solution is in the range of from about 1:4 to about 1:8;

g) solvent extracting and electrowinning said pH-adjusted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution to yield a an acid-containing raffinate solution and ~~copper~~ cathode;

h) applying said acid-containing raffinate solution in a heap leaching operation.

14. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of subjecting said residue of step (e) to a further processing.

15. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 14, wherein said step of further processing comprises precious metal recovery.

16. (ORIGINAL) The process of claim 14 wherein said step of further processing comprises impounding.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 13, wherein in said solvent extracting step, said pH-adjusted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution is contacted with an extraction reagent comprising an aldoxime/ketoxime mixture.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The process of claim 13, wherein said step of adjusting the pH of said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution comprises combining said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution with a make-up diluting solution to yield a pH-adjusted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution wherein the ratio of said ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution to said make-up diluting solution is in the range of from about 1:4 to about 1:8 and the pH of said pH-adjusted ~~copper-containing~~ metal-bearing solution is from about 1.4 to about 1.8.